



Opening for an AmeriCorps VISTA: Grow Our Food Business Resource Guide Full Time Year of Service with Stipend at a Maryland Nonprofit

The following position is a one-year (July 2017-July 2018) AmeriCorps VISTA position at the Crossroads Community Food Network in Takoma Park, MD and sponsored by Strong City Baltimore. Over the past two years at Crossroads Community Food Network, 70 people have graduated from our Microenterprise Training Program (MTP) where they received training and technical assistance to establish small-scale food businesses and 18 vendors regularly sell at our market. Over the past 2 years, we have seen businesses grow and some jobs created; now we seek to take these 88 participants to the next level to increase their business revenues so they can increase their savings and build wealth.

Develop a new microenterprise business resource to assist low-income food entrepreneurs, farmers and producers in the DC Metro Area! The goal of this project is to create a “Grow Our Food Business Guide” providing a roadmap for food entrepreneurs in our training programs to easily access the support they need in order to build a successful business. This resource, which will be used by the organization well beyond the VISTA term, will be designed as a financial literacy and business planning tool tailored for small food entrepreneurs, farmers, and producers.

The VISTA will:

1. conduct outreach to the local community;
2. develop communication tools and systems;
3. coordinate focus groups and needs assessments;
4. build and formalize relationships with partner organizations;
5. produce a physical guide to these services that can be used well beyond the term of service.

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is not a job per se, but a full time national service opportunity. Benefits include: living allowance, relocation and child care assistance if eligible, health allowance, monthly travel reimbursement, choice of an education award or cash stipend, and non-competitive eligibility for federal employment upon completion. Preferred candidates will be at least 18 years of age, demonstrate relevant experience for the position, and exhibit professionalism, commitment to service, and leadership potential.

Strong City’s mission is to build and strengthen neighborhoods and people. For more than four decades, Strong City has secured the resources of VISTA members to build sustainable change and fight poverty in our neighborhoods. Strong City-sponsored AmeriCorps VISTA members receive a solid foundation of skills they can use as a springboard for careers in government, nonprofits, education, and much more.

*For more information, please contact **Tina Foster, VISTA Leader**, at tfoster@strongcitybaltimore.org or (410) 435-0699.*

To apply, visit: [Strong City Baltimore's Website Becoming a VISTA](#) and click on my.americorps.gov

Application Deadline: May 21, 2017

Pre-Service Orientation: July 17-20, 2017 (non-negotiable)

Start Date: July 21, 2017 (non-negotiable)